



U.S. Small Business Administration  
Seattle District Office

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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**Contact: Michèle Liebes, 206-553-7082**  
**michele.liebes@sba.gov**



Left to Right: SBA Regional Administrator, Conrad Lee, Diana Drake, Chief, Minority Enterprise Development, Rocky Wens, ESP, SBA Administrator Hector Barreto, SBA District Director Robert Meredith

### **Rocky Wens of Engineering Support Personnel, Inc. Chosen SBA Washington Minority Small Business Person Award Winner**

**July 18, 2002 (Seattle, Washington)** -- Rocky M. Wens, President of Engineering Support Personnel, Inc., in Lynnwood has been named Washington State Minority Small Business Person of the Year for 2002 by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

The SBA Minority Small Business Person of the Year award is presented to the minority small business person who best exemplifies successful minority entrepreneurship. Wens was judged on the following criteria: staying power, growth in number of employees, increase in sales and/or unit volume, current and past financial reports, innovativeness of product or service, response to adversity and evidence of contributions to community-oriented projects.

Wens and his father, Jean Wens, founded Engineering Support Personnel, Inc. (ESP, Inc.) in 1990. ESP, Inc. is a small family owned business specializing in project management, engineering, and technical services. The company has grown from one employee to more than 150 employees nationwide, 15 employees in Okinawa, Japan, and sales in excess of eight million dollars in 2001. Clients include the Department of Defense, top-tier aerospace and industrial companies, and state and local government agencies.

Hector V. Barreto, SBA Administrator, presented the award to Wens on Thursday, July 18 at ESP's headquarters in Lynnwood. Wens will be honored again on August 22 at Showcase 2002 in Bellevue. Wens will now compete for the regional award. The national and regional winners will be recognized during national Minority Enterprise Development Week (MED Week), to be held in Washington, D.C. from September 23-27 this year.

The SBA was created in 1953 as an independent agency of the federal government to help small businesses start, grow, and stay in business. The agency provides financial, management, and government contracting assistance to small firms nationwide. In the Pacific Northwest, the SBA's five district offices have a portfolio of business loans, loan guarantees and disaster loans totaling almost \$2 billion.

*For more information on all of SBA's programs for small businesses, call the Seattle District Office at 206-553-7310, visit the office in downtown Seattle at 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1700, or visit the SBA's web site at [www.sba.gov/wa](http://www.sba.gov/wa).*

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